

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 101027Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7335

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

COMUSMACTHAI

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 13625

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, VS, CB

SUBJ: JAPANESE REPRESENTATION IN INDOCHINA

REF: TOKYO 7493

SUMMARY. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN SAIGON HAS RETURNED HOME AND THE GOJ IS DELAYING THE NOMINATION OF A SUCCESSOR. THERE ARE FEWER THAN 100 JAPANESE LEFT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. END SUMMARY.

1. A JAPANESE EMBOFF CALLED AT THE EMBASSY JULY 9 TO DISCUSS INDOCHINA. HIS MAIN CONCERN WAS WHETHER WE HAD ANY NEW INFORMATION ON THE LONG RUMORED KHIEU SAMPHAN-IENG SARY SPLIT, AND THE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF KHIEU SAMPHAN. AFTER BOTH SIDES CONFESSED THEIR IGNORANCE, THE JAPANESE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT GRUNK HAS NOT REPLIED TO HIS COUNTRY'S APPROACH ON THE PROTECTION OF ITS PROPERTY.

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2. WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH VIETNAM, THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO SAIGON, HITOMI, PASSED THROUGH BANGKOK LAST WEEK ON HIS WAY HOME. THE ONLY OBSERVATION OF HITOMI THAT THE OFFICER PASSED ON IS THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE TALK IN SAIGON THAT THE RGSVN IS IN CONTROL OF THE SVAY RIENG AREA AND THE LOWER DELTA ON THE CAMBODIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER. HE ADDED THAT, APART FROM THE CURRENT RGSVN REFUSAL TO RECEIVE AMBASSADORS, THE GOJ IS ALSO HOLDING UP CONSIDERATION OF A SUCCESSOR TO HITOMI UNTIL THE REUNIFICATION ISSUES BECOMES CLEARER, AND UNTIL THE JAPANESE COMPLETE THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DRV. HE SAID "JAPAN COULD NOT HAVE AN AMBASSADOR IN SAIGON WITHOUT HAVING ONE IN HANOI; IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING."

3. THE OFFICER SAID THAT WITH JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN CONTINUING TO TRICKLE OUT OF SOUTH VIETNAM, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JAPANESE THERE IS NOW BELOW 100. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES 16 PERSONS AT THE EMBASSY, TWO JOURNALISTS, AND SOME³⁷ JAPANESE LONG MARRIED TO VIETNAMESE. OF THE LATTER, 21 JAPANESE HAVE EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO LEAVE VIETNAM BUT ARE UNCLEAR AS TO HOW TO GET THEIR VIETNAMESE WIVES OUT. THE GOJ IS PREPARED TO ISSUE SOME OF THEM JAPANESE PASSPORTS, IF THAT WILL HELP.

4. CONCERNING COMMUNICATIONS, FOLLOWING THE TAKEOVER IN VIETNAM THE JAPANESE EMBASSY THERE WAS ABLE TO USE ITS TELEX. WHEN IT WAS BLOCKED, BRIEF RADIO VOICE COMMUNICATIONS WERE POSSIBLE FOR A TIME. THE EMBASSY IS ABLE ONLY TO SEND OUT "DOCUMENTS."

5. ALTHOUGH OUR CONTACT AGREED TO LET US KNOW WHAT HIS EMBASSY IN SAIGON REPORTS--WHICH HE MAY OR MAY NOT DO--THIS EMBASSY HOPES THE JAPANESE WILL BE FORTHCOMING WITH THEIR OFFER TO PROVIDE US SUCH REPORTS AS THEY RECEIVE IN TOKYO, PER REFTEL.
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